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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/933,602	08/21/2001	Kevin J. Reardon	FIS920010165US1 (14775)	6766

7590 12/07/2006		EXAMINER

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3623	

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/933,602	REARDON, KEVIN J.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andre Boyce	3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 October 2006</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-13</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-3 and 5-13</u> is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) <u>4</u> is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on

August 15, 2006 has been entered.

2.   Claims 1, 8, 11 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1-13 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can

be found in a prior Office action.

4.   Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Kalyan et al (USPN 6,826,538).

As per claim 1, Kalyan et al disclose a method for analyzing a business that

provides deliverable end-user products to consumers (i.e., value management

pricing, column 2, lines 46-48), said end-user products including components

wherein each deliverable product and each component have a perceivable

cost and consumer value (i.e., value management, wherein prices of

components that make up the product, column 2, lines 61-63), said method

comprising the steps of: a) obtaining Average Sales Price (ASP) trend data for

a deliverable end-user product provided by said business and tracking

changes of said trend data over a period of time, said period divided into one

or more time intervals (i.e., pricing process in terms of input, including price

offered for each standard product for each time horizon of interest, column 7,

lines 54-60); b) obtaining ASP trend data for a component used in said

deliverable end-user product and tracking changes of said trend data for said

component over said period of time (i.e., each component has a determined

value/price, used to calculate the value/price of the product, column 3, lines

51-57, wherein output includes the value of each critical component for each

time horizon, column 7, lines 60-63 and figure 2), c) generating a data

structure including elements for characterizing trend data as meeting certain

performance criteria (i.e., value of each critical component for each time

horizon, column 7, lines 60-63 and figure 2); d) mapping said trend changes

associated with trend data for a deliverable end-user product and trend data

for a component used in said deliverable end-user product for each period to

said elements in said data structure (i.e., component values, product prices,

and product demand probabilities graphically represented, figures 2A and 2B,

column 6, lines 53-58); and, e) performing analysis of said elements for a

component and deliverable product in each time interval (i.e., component

values used to price non-standard products based on supply and demand,

column 7, lines 1-3), said elements indicating potential corrective action with

respect to a value or cost for said component or deliverable product (i.e.,
calculated components being the basis of a variety of pricing decisions,
including oversupply, column 7, lines 13-17).

As per claim 2, Kalyan et al disclose said data structure includes a matrix for
characterizing relationships between ASP trends of deliverables and ASP trends
of components (i.e., component values, product prices, and product demand
probabilities graphically represented, figures 2A and 2B, column 6, lines 53-58 and
component values used to price non-standard products based on supply and
demand, column 7, lines 1-3), one or more elements of said matrix characterizing
either or both said deliverable or component ASP trends as being equal or to or
above a base level between successive time intervals (i.e., component that has a
component value equal to or above 0, column 7, lines 13-17).

As per claim 3, Kalyan et al disclose said base level is zero, said one or more
elements characterizing said trends as being equal to or above said base level
thereby defining a stability sector (i.e., component that has a component value
equal to 0 indicates an oversupply of the component or lack of demand, wherein
values above 0 indicate a level of demand for the component, thus defining a
minimum acceptable value for each component, column 7, lines 13-27).

As per claim 5, Kalyan et al disclose elements of said matrix provide an
estimation of profit potential for a business operating at an indicated time interval in
said stability sector by managing the cost or value for that deliverable and
component (i.e., MAV curve can be graphed as a function of supply of a critical

component, wherein the area under the curve is the expected revenue from the available supply of the component, column 8, lines 41-46).

As per claim 6, Kalyan et al disclose said step e) of performing an analysis includes the steps of: improving a value of the deliverable and identifying components that assist in said improving (i.e., calculating component values for various input values, including prices and demand probabilities, column 6, lines 33-48); and maintaining the value of said deliverable in said stability sector pending improvement of said value (i.e., maintaining prices until component values rise above MAV, thus designating those components as critical components, column 7, lines 14-21).

As per claim 7, Kalyan et al disclose repeating step b) though step e) utilizing a different component, said analysis revealing which component drives value and what customers perceive as value from the deliverable (i.e., method moves to the next component to calculate a new component value, column 6, lines 13-16).

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected based upon the rejection of claims 1 and 2, respectively, since they are the program storage device readable by a machine claims, corresponding to the method claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   Claims 8-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalyan et al (USPN 6,826,538), in view of Fields et al (USPN 5,459,656).

As per claim 8, Kalyan et al disclose method for assessing in real-time a

business plan for a business that provides deliverable end-user products to

consumers (i.e., value management pricing, beneficial in product design, column

2, lines 46-48 and 52-55), said end-user products including components wherein

each deliverable product and each component have a perceivable cost and

consumer value (i.e., value management, wherein prices of components that

make up the product, column 2, lines 61-63), said method comprising the steps of

a) providing a business plan associated with the selling of a deliverable product in

the market, said plan organized as a series of successive time intervals, with each

said interval indicating hypothetical movement of profitability of said deliverable

product (i.e., linear price-demand curve for a product, wherein the curve can be

used to determine a total potential revenue that could be realized, column 10, lines

28-33); b) generating a data structure including elements for characterizing trend

data as meeting certain performance criteria (i.e., value of each critical component

for each time horizon, column 7, lines 60-63 and figure 2), each said element

indicating one or more corrective actions that may be performed with respect to a

value or cost for a deliverable or one of its components (i.e., calculated

components being the basis of a variety of pricing decisions, including

oversupply, column 7, lines 13-17); and c) obtaining actual ASP trend data for said

deliverable and component at a current sampling interval (i.e., analyzing demand

from a history database in order to obtain a relationship between price charged and

demand, column 13, lines 48-51).

Kalyan et al does not explicitly disclose c) mapping said actual ASP trend data

for said deliverable and component to a corresponding element in said data

structure; d) comparing said mapped element with a hypothetical movement

defined for the deliverable product and component according to said business plan

at that time interval; and e) making corrective changes with respect to a value or

cost for said component or deliverable according to the comparison.

Fields discloses c) mapping said actual data to a corresponding element in said

data structure (i.e., actual demand mapped against threshold limits, column 1, lines

3-5); d) comparing said mapped element with a hypothetical movement defined for

the deliverable product and component according to said business plan at that time

interval (i.e., monitoring actual demand against projected demand, column 10, lines

50-53); and e) making corrective changes with respect to a value or cost for said

component or deliverable according to the comparison (i.e., revising near future-

intervals to reflect detected deviations, wherein the percent differential is compared

to threshold limits in order to determine the value to be projected over the

remaining intervals, column 11, lines 1-25). Both Kalyan et al and Fields et al are

concerned with analyzing supply and demand of products, therefore it would have

been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to include mapping said actual ASP trend data to a corresponding element in

said data structure; comparing said mapped element with a hypothetical movement

and making corrective changes in Kalyan et al, as seen in Fields et al, in order to

effectively detect variations between actual and projected values (see Fields et al, column 10, line 53), thus making the Kalyan et al pricing method more robust.

As per claim 9, Kalyan et al disclose said step c) further comprises the step of defining for said business plan a hypothetical Average Sales Price (ASP) trend for each said deliverable product (i.e., pricing process in terms of input, including price offered for each standard product for each time horizon of interest, column 7, lines 54-60) and a component in each successive time interval (i.e., each component has a determined value/price, used to calculate the value/price of the product, column 3, lines 51-57, wherein output includes the value of each critical component for each time horizon, column 7, lines 60-63 and figure 2).

Kalyan et al does not explicitly disclose said step d) further includes comparing said actual ASP trend data with said hypothetical Average Sales Price (ASP) trend at said time interval. Fields discloses monitoring actual demand against projected demand, column 10, lines 50-53. Both Kalyan et al and Fields et al are concerned with analyzing supply and demand of products, therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include comparing said actual trend data with said hypothetical trend data at said time interval in Kalyan et al, as seen in Fields et al, in order to effectively detect variations between actual and projected values (see Fields et al, column 10, line 53), thus making the Kalyan et al pricing method more robust.

As per claim 10, Kalyan et al disclose said step c) of obtaining actual data is performed when valid ASP trend data is available (i.e., demand from a history database, column 13, line 51).

Claim 13 is rejected based upon the rejection of claim 8, since it is the program storage device readable by a machine claims, corresponding to the method claims.

Response to Arguments

6.   In the Remarks, Applicant argues, with respect to claims 1 and 11 (and similarly with respect to claims 8 and 13), that Kalyan et al does not disclose or suggest mapping said trend changes associated with trend data for a deliverable end-user product and trend data for a component used in said deliverable end-user product. The Examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that Kalyan et al disclose component values, product prices, and product demand probabilities graphically represented (figures 2A and 2B, column 6, lines 53-58), thus indeed disclosing mapping said trend changes associated with trend data for a deliverable end-user product and trend data for a component,

With respect to claims 2 and 12, Applicant argues that Kalyan et al fail to disclose or suggest a matrix for characterizing relationships between ASP trends of deliverables and ASP trends of components, one or more elements of said matrix characterizing either or both said deliverable or component ASP trends as being equal or to or above a base level between successive time intervals. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Kalyan et al disclose component values, product

prices, and product demand probabilities graphically represented (figures 2A and

2B, column 6, lines 53-58), component values used to price non-standard

products based on supply and demand (column 7, lines 1-3), and component that

has a component value equal to or above 0 (column 7, lines 13-17) Therefore,

Kalyan et al indeed disclosing a matrix (i.e., 3D graph) characterizing

relationships between ASP trends of deliverables and ASP trends of components.

Allowable Subject Matter

7.   Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would

be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Andre Boyce whose telephone number is (571) 272-

6726. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-

8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

adb
December 2, 2006

ANDRE BOYCE
PATENT EXAMINER
A.U. 3623